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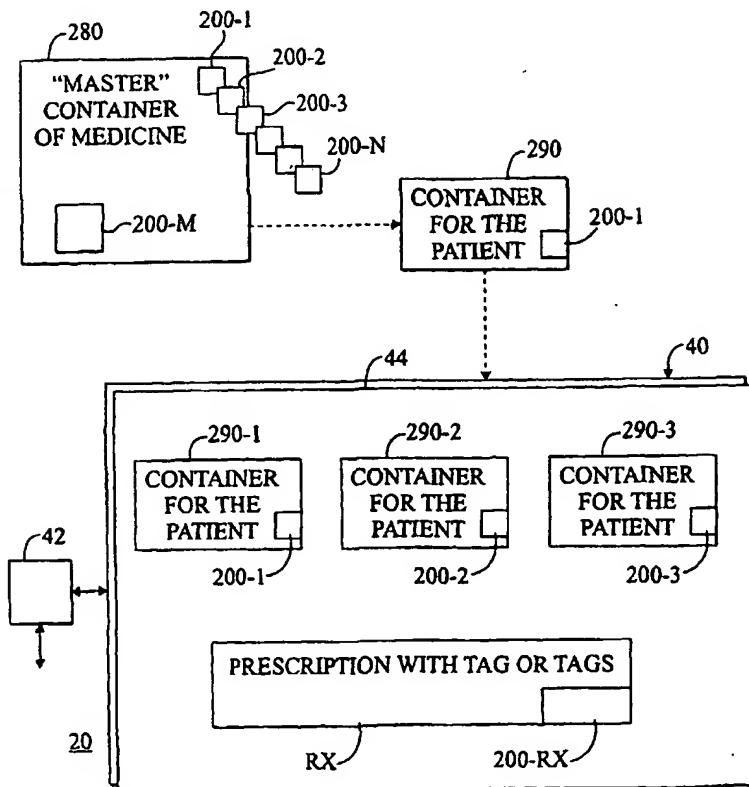
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TRACKING SYSTEM AND METHOD EMPLOYING PLURAL SMART TAGS



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(57) Abstract: A system and method are useful for tracking two or more objects moving by separate transport paths to a destination and associating the objects at the destination. Object and check smart tags (200-N, 200-RX) are associated respectively with each object (280, 290) to be tracked and with an associated check object (RX). Each smart tag includes at least an electronic memory from which information may be transmitted and/or into which information may be stored. Smart tag control units (reader and/or writer) (42) and antenna arrays (44) along the transport path (40) communicate with the smart tags and/or communicate directly or indirectly with one or more processors that process the information. Object and check smart tags are read and compared for matching the object and check object at the destination.



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— *as to applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, TG).*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G08B 13/14; H04Q 7/00; G07B 15/02; G06F 17/60
US CL : 340/568.1, 572.1, 571, 539; 235/384; 705/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 340/568.1, 572.1, 571, 539; 235/384; 705/28

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 6,232,877 B1 (ASHWIN) 15 May 2001 (15.05.2001), Fig. 1 and corresponding disclosure.	1-24, 31-42, 49-52 and 54-68
A	US 5,886,634 A (MUHME) 23 March 1999 (23.03.1999), cols. 4-8.	1-68
Y	US 5,272,318 A (GORMAN) 21 December 1993 (21.12.1993), col. 3, lines 26-38; col. 5, line 7 to col. 6, line 14.	68
Y	US 5,401,944 A (BRAVMAN et al.) 28 March 1995 (28.03.1995), Figs. 7-8 and corresponding disclosure.	1-24, 31-42, 49-52 and 54-67
Y	US 6,111,506 A (YAP et al.) 29 August 2000 (29.08.2000), Fig. 8 and col. 17, line 49 to col. 18, line 7.	1-24, 31-42, 49-51 and 56-68
Y	US 5,257,011 A (BEIGEL) 26 October 1993 (26.10.1993), Abstract.	4, 11, 19-20, 37-38, 52, 54-55 and 57
A	US 5,051,565 A (WOLFRAM) 24 September 1991 (24.09.1991), Figs. 1-2 and corresponding disclosure.	1-68
A	US 5,396,218 A (OLAH) 07 March 1995 (07.03.1995), Abstract.	1-68
Y	US 5,650,768 A (ESWARAN) 22 July 1997 (22.07.1997), Fig. 2 and corresponding disclosure	1-24, 31-42, 49-52 and 54-68



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,221,831 A (GEISZLER) 22 June 1993 (22.06.1993), Fig. 1 and corresponding disclosure.	5
Y	US 5,661,470 A (KARR) 26 August 1997 (26.08.1997), col. 6, lines 51-58.	6 and 58